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THE PRESIDENCY OF LIBERIA.

ROBERTS AND BENSON.

THERE seems to be no little apprehension among the friends of Colonization that the resignation of President Roberts, or rather his declining a re-election, will prove disadvantageous—even disastrous to the welfare and prosperity of Liberia. They seem to feel, that, the Ex-President is, at least, one-half of the Republic: and the most virulent enemies of Liberia, the Abolitionists, have uniformly declared that Liberia is able to produce but one man capable of properly performing the duties of President.

We are happy in the confidence, that, the apprehensions of the one party, and the hopes of the other, will not be realized. We know they are both groundless. No man has a higher appreciation of Joseph J. Roberts, either as a man and citizen of Liberia, or as its chief executive officer, than the writer of this article. We have known him long and well, for years, intimately. As President of the Republic, he has done just what we predicted at, and before the period of his election and it is not discourteous to his successor, or to any other citizen of Liberia, to express our belief, that he has done more for the Republic—especially more to extend its foreign reputation and connection with the civilized world, than *any* other citizen *would* or *could* have done. His entire administration has been eminently *able*, and justly entitles him to a high rank among the Rulers of Nations of ancient or modern times, and to the eternal gratitude of his country and race. We say this, not without consideration and reflection,—knowing, as we well do, the *man*, the people, the circumstances, and the time. We trust some one competent to the task will give to the world a fair history of his twelve years of administration, as Governor of the Colony and President of the Republic.

But the existence and prosperity of Liberia is not dependent upon one or ten men,—and during the late exciting and violent contest for the Presidency, we felt not the least apprehension, terminate as it would, that the vitality or prosperity of Liberia was at stake. We were, however, gratified at the result—the election of Stephen A. Benson to the Presidency—probably because we knew him better than we did the opposing candidate, Mr. Roye, and the friends of Liberia need be under no apprehension that they will ever

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Maryland Historical Society

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